

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 30 April, 2004

Refuge to Host Birding Tours

Once again, mid-May brings our local breeding birds back home from migration, and the return of International Migratory Bird Day! In celebration of International Migratory Bird Day, Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge will be hosting birding tours on Saturday, May 8, at 8:00 AM at the Refuge Headquarters (1 mile south and 2 miles east of Medicine Lake). This year's theme is **Conservation of Colonial Birds; *Birds of a feather nesting together*** so the tour will focus on colony nesting areas located on the Refuge, so come on out for a morning devoted to learning about birds, their migration, and their conservation.

We will start out with a short orientation, and then tour some of the various bird habitats on the Refuge. We'll see the colonial-nesting birds, prairie birds, waterfowl, shorebirds and birds of prey. Tours will be followed by refreshments and door prizes back at headquarters around noon. Bring the family, and dress for the outdoors. Binoculars are helpful but not necessary. For more information call Sean Cross at 789-2305 ext. 104.

Like any day of recognition, International Migratory Bird Day exists to focus attention on a valuable resource, the nearly 350 species of migratory birds that travel between nesting habitats in North America and wintering grounds in South America, Mexico, and the Caribbean. More than 225 of these species have been sighted at Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge since 1935, and at least 105 of them nest on the Refuge.

Sean Cross, Medicine Lake Refuge, 406/789-2305 ext 104.